

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 ROBERT W. CAREY PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, which has been awarded the 2012 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award.

As Congress continues to work to improve veterans' services, I believe it is important that we take the time to recognize the outstanding dedication of our VA employees. The committed men and women of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System strive every day to provide quality support and care for our Arizona veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. Our veterans deserve the highest quality of care, and the Robert W. Carey Performance Award recognizes the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System's commitment to achieving this goal.

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System is a leader in veteran health care. Collectively, the various parts of the system provide quality services to more than 177,000 veterans. The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System not only provides general and primary care but a myriad of specialty services including neurology, rehabilitation, and mental health.

The Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award is an annual award sponsored by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The award recognizes specific organizations within the VA that have implemented management approaches that result in sustained high levels of performance and service to our nation's veterans. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better recipient of this year's award than the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System, SAVAHCS. I congratulate the employees of SAVAHCS on this well-deserved recognition of the care they provide to our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE AYERS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time friend and tremendous leader in Kentucky, Dr. Bruce Ayers upon his retirement as President of the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Dr. Bruce Ayers is arguably one of the most brilliant educators and dedicated businessmen in Kentucky. He understands the value of forging new partnerships, expanding educational

opportunities, and mentoring young leaders. He is also an avid ambassador for our beautiful region, promoting our rich culture and heritage with every opportunity.

Dr. Ayers enjoys explaining how he "grew up" at Southeast, spending nearly a half-century at the institution. After bravely serving in the U.S. Marine Corps with a deployment at Guantanamo Bay, Bruce became a student at what used to be the Southeast Center of the University of Kentucky in Cumberland. He quickly displayed leadership qualities by helping to establish the college's award-winning newspaper, The Southeasterner, before moving on to the University of Kentucky in Lexington. After earning his Master's degree, Bruce immediately returned to Southeast as a faculty member and worked diligently to become the 8th President of SKCTC in 1987.

With Dr. Ayers at the helm of his alma mater, Southeast has grown from a small campus with 1,100 students to well over 5,000 students spanning five cities with individual campuses. With his vision and compassion to help others succeed, the college established a Nursing School, the Kentucky Coal Academy, the Pine Mountain Development Corporation, and multiple outreach programs for younger students, beginning in elementary school. Most recently, he has worked tirelessly to help laid-off coal miners get the education they need to pursue alternative careers in the midst of economic struggles in our Appalachian coalfields.

Dr. Ayers' exemplary leadership has earned national recognition. He is the founding chair of the Rural Community College Alliance; he served as an adjunct member on the graduate faculty of the Department of Instructional Systems, Leadership, and Workforce Development at Mississippi State University; and served as a local advisor for students pursuing a PhD in Community College Leadership through MSU. Additionally, under his leadership, the Aspen Institute selected SKCTC as one of the top ten community colleges in the nation earlier this year.

While his excellence in education has largely defined his career, Dr. Ayers' footprint extends far beyond the Southeast campuses, through his tireless community service efforts in the tri-city area of Harlan County and our entire region. Dr. Ayers has been a huge advocate for non-profit, grassroots programs like our region's tourism initiative, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky; the environmental cleanup campaign, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE; and the holistic anti-drug program, Operation UNITE. I believe he spends each day trying to find a way to give more back to the region he calls home. He is truly a difference maker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and a true inspiration, Dr. Bruce Ayers on his retirement. I wish Bruce and his wife, Barbara all the best in the years to come.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE RUDY CLAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and the utmost respect that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, the Honorable Rudolph Clay, former Mayor of Gary, Indiana. On Tuesday, June 4, 2013, Rudy Clay passed away at the age of 77. Known for his many years of public service and his countless efforts toward improving the lives of Northwest Indiana residents, Rudy will be missed by his family, friends, constituents, and the many people whose lives he touched.

Rudolph Clay was born in Courtland, Alabama. He and his brother, David, were raised by their aunts, Daisy Washington and Mary Lucy Hunter, in Gary, Indiana, following the passing of his mother. Rudy graduated from Roosevelt High School in Gary before continuing his education at Indiana University in Bloomington, which he attended on a track scholarship. After returning to Gary, he met and fell in love with Christine Swan, whom he wed on November 30, 1957. From 1958 to 1960, Rudy began what would become a lifetime of public service by serving in the United States Army. During this time, Rudy's calling to fight injustice and to serve the public, especially those most in need, and his unwavering desire to be a catalyst for positive change, led him on his extraordinary journey.

Rudolph Clay was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1972. While in this position, the focus of his efforts included working toward improved training programs for prison inmates and the creation of a victim's compensation fund. Following his service in the Indiana General Assembly, Rudy was elected to the Lake County Council in 1978 and re-elected in 1982. During his time on the Council, Rudy's dedication to equal rights impelled him to be an outspoken leader in the fight to eliminate unfair hiring practices in Lake County government. He was elected Lake County Recorder in 1984, and three years later, he was elected to the Lake County Board of Commissioners, a capacity in which he remained for four terms.

In 2005, Rudy became the first African American elected to serve as the Lake County Democratic Chairman, a position he held until 2009.

In 2006, recognizing the leadership Rudy Clay would bring to the people of Gary, the Gary Precinct Organization appointed him to be the next mayor of Gary, and he was elected to the position the following year. Mayor Clay was the epitome of a public servant. His energetic dedication to serving people and his profound compassion for them, especially those most in need, was limitless. Throughout his illustrious career, Rudy received many esteemed honors for his outstanding commitment and his constant efforts to improve the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.